

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 COME-00 ISO-00

TRSE-00 OIC-02 EA-06 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 H-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIE-00 DODE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NSCE-00 /088 W

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O R 151215Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0063

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3801

FODAG

FOR JOHN BAKER - UNP PASS MEAD FAS/USDA PASS SHAUGHNESSY FFP/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FAO, UN, VN

SUBJECT: WFP/IGC 27TH SESSION: VIETNAM ISSUE

REF: ROME 3529

1. DESPITE EARLIER INDICATION ON THIS TOPIC, AS REPORTED REF-TEL, SWEDEN IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING SOME MEANS OF RAISING THE ISSUE OF PROVIDING FOOD AID THROUGH THE WFP TO INDO-CHINA, INCLUDING NVN AND AREAS CONTROLLED BY PRG IN ADDITION TO CURRENT WFP PROJECT IN SVN.

2. AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO REQUESTS FOR PROJECTS OR ASSISTANCE PENDING FOR EITHER NVN OR PRG, WHICH IS NOT SURPRISING GIVEN FACT THAT NEITHER IS MEMBER OF THE UN OR FAO AND HENCE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PROJECTS OR EMERGENCY GRANTS. WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THIS FACT, THE SWEDES MAY ARGUE THAT AN ARRANGEMENTS
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HAS BEEN MADE IN UNICEF TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO INDO-

CHINA AND THAT SIMILARLY THE EX-DIR OF WFP SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO RESPOND TO NVN AND PRG REQUESTS SHOULD THEY BE RECEIVED. PRESUMABLY THIS WOULD BE WITHIN EXISTING DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY TO EX-DIR, WHICH EMPOWERS HIM TO APPROVE PROJECTS INVOLVING COMMODITIES OF UP TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS IF REQUEST IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRIORITIES OF THE PROGRAM. IN FACT, THAT DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY IS SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO COVER THE WATERFRONT. IN ADDITION, THE SWEDES MAY POINT TO FACT THAT THE WHO AND HCR ARE OPERATIVE IN THE AREA.

3. THE SWEDES MAY INCLUDE IN THEIR AGREEMENT THAT NVN AND PRG ARE PARTIES TO THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT. AQUINO (PROTECT) INFORMS U.S. DEL THAT SINCE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT, THE SYG HAS MADE SEVERAL DECLARATIONS (IN CAMERA AND OTHERWISE) TO THE EFFECT THAT THE VARIOUS UNITS OF THE UN SHOULD PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE ON A BROAD FRONT IN INDO-CHINA IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE.

4. WE ASSUME SWEDEN WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO HANG ITS ARGUMENT ON THE IGC ACTION OF LAST YEAR WHICH MADE AFRICAN LIBERATION AREAS ELIGIBLE FOR WFP ASSISTANCE CHanneled THROUGH THE OAU. IN CASE OF AFRICA, THERE WERE RELEVANT UNGA RESOLUTIONS WHEREAS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE ARE NOT IN THE CASE OF INDO-CHINA.

5. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SWEDEN WOULD NOT OBJECT TO CURRENT PROJECT IN SVN PER SE, BUT WOULD ARGUE THAT ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE BROADENED TO AVOID FAVORITISM TOWARD SVN.

STATE OF PLAY

6. ON 3/14, SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO ITALY APPROACHED AQUINO, MADE ARGUMENT STATED ABOVE, AND ASKED HIM TO CONVENE THE IGC IN CAMERA TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE. AQUINO TOOK REQUEST UNDER ADVISEMENT AND THROUGH SOUNDINGS WITH 8 OR 9 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U.S., U.K., NETHERLANDS, NORWAY AND SWITZERLAND -- THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BE OPPOSED. HE REPORTED TO SWEDEN THAT THE IDEA RECEIVED "COLD RECEPTION."

7. SWEDEN MAY NOT NOW PRESS THIS IDEA BUT DID INDICATE THAT
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THEY DO NOT WANT TO LET MATTER DROP. AQUINO TOLD THEM THEY HAVE TWO OPTIONS: (1) MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST TO EX-DIR STATING WHY THEY WANT AN IN CAMERA SESSION AND (2) EXERCISE THEIR PREROGATIVE TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN IGC SESSION. HE POINTED OUT TO THEM THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR EX-DIR TO RAISE THIS ISSUE SINCE SVN PROJECT IS NOT UP FOR DISCUSSION OR APPROVAL AT THIS SESSION. FURTHERMORE, NEITHER NVN NOR PRG HAS REQUEST PENDING.

8. IF SWEDES ATTEMPT TO ADD ISSUE TO AGENDA DURING THE SESSION, WE MAY HAVE SOUND OBJECTION SINCE THERE IS NO AGENDA ITEM ON WHICH TO HANG THIS AT PRESENT. OF COURSE THEY COULD TRY TO ADD THIS ITEM WHEN AGENDA IS DISCUSSED ON A.M. 3/17, OR THEY COULD ADD IT LATER BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE.

9. COMMENT - U.S. DEL WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND RECOMMENDS FURTHER ELABORATION OF CONTINGENCY PAPER ON THIS ITEM IN LIGHT OF ABOVE. VOLPE

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